

Contact Lenses Require Medical Service

All wearers of contact lenses require medical service, Dr. Charles E. Jaeckle, Defiance, Ohio, said today in the March 3 *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"The increased medical care required over the years by persons who use contact lenses has not been adequately publicized," he said.

Medical care must continue as long as contact lenses are used, he said. Because of the nature of the lenses, he said, continuing, periodic evaluation of the effect of the lens on the eye is essential to their use.

The contact lens is a nonsterile, foreign body, which is placed in contact with the easily damaged, transparent cells of the cornea, Dr. Jaeckle explained. The normal respiratory exchange of the corneal tissue takes place directly with the atmosphere, i.e., oxygen is taken from the air and carbon dioxide is discharged into the air, he said.

Placing a contact lens on the cornea always interferes with this normal process, he said. It also disturbs other physiological factors, such as heat loss and the chemical composition of the fluid film over the cornea, he said.

The lens is not merely an optical correction, but an artificial part which substitutes for the cornea, he said, adding:

"It treats not light, but the eye. It modifies tissue and alters the anatomy and physiology."

The decision whether to apply this foreign body to the eye, the diagnosis and management of pathological and physiological changes, and the prescribing of modification of the lens based on such changes are "manifestly the responsibility of the medical doctor, not of allied health personnel," Dr. Jaeckle said.

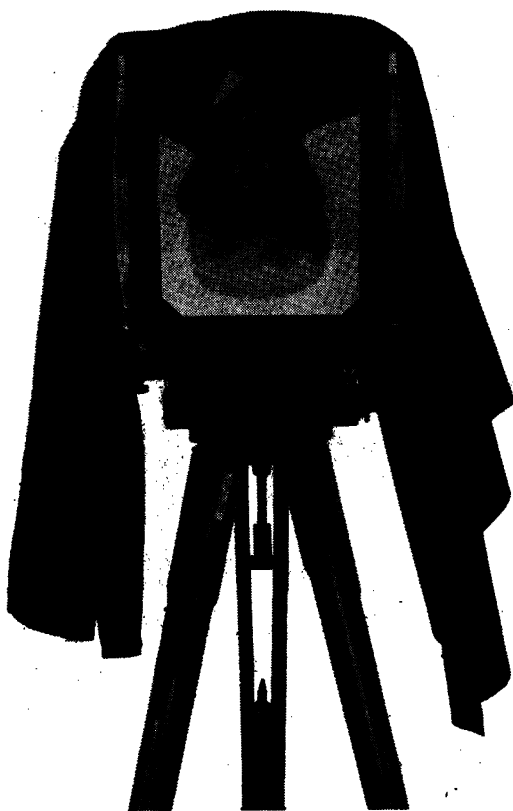
Because contact lenses reduce the sensitivity of the cornea, they also deprive the wearer of the warning symptom of pain, the ophthalmologist pointed out. If the wearer is not under a physician's observation, injury may not be recognized, he said.

Contact lenses offer advantages to only a small number of persons, he said. They are being used by many persons whose visual needs would be "well met" by spectacles, he said.

SUBARACHNOID ALCOHOL BLOCK IN THE CONTROL OF INTRACTABLE PAIN—R. C. Hay. *Anesth. Analg.*—Vol. 41:12 (Jan.-Feb.) 1962.

The results of subarachnoid alcohol block in 252 patients with malignancy are reported. The procedure has proved to be very useful in alleviating segmental pain. Pain relief was obtained in 78 per cent of the patients, with complications in 2 per cent. The technique is the standard subarachnoid puncture and injection of absolute alcohol in small increments up to 1 cc. per interspace. The injections are confined to the cervicodorsal area only.

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